

## MINISTER CASTLE INTERVIEWED.

Talks of Hawaiian Matters to Boston Writer.

MR. CLEVELAND MISINFORMED.

Touches Up the Bishop and the Cholera. Land Law, Revolution and Rebellion Reviewed—Islands Prosperous and Anxious for Annexation, Etc., Etc.

BOSTON, Sept. 18.—William R. Castle, the newly appointed Hawaiian Minister at Washington, is in this city for a brief visit, prior to presenting his credentials to Secretary Olney at the seat of government. He was seen last evening by a Journal writer, who found him very communicative concerning matters at Honolulu. Mr. Castle is apparently not far from 45 years of age, tall and athletic in build, of light complexion, full beard, and remarkably approachable and genial in conversation. He is accompanied by Mrs. Castle and a young son. One of his errands in Boston is to make arrangements for the admission of his oldest son to Harvard College.

Annexation Sentiment Strong. "What is the feeling in Honolulu in present regard to annexation?" was asked of Mr. Castle.

"It is still very active. All of the prominent citizens, it may be said, are in favor of some form of annexation to the United States. The mass of the rank and file of the people are in favor of it. The general thought is that the islands should come into the Union as a province in some manner. The exact status is not generally discussed."

"It is reported here that the Royalist faction is now advocating annexation in order to get rid of the Dole Government?" was suggested.

"Yes; that is true, also. The feeling of the Royalists is still very bitter toward the personnel of the present Government, so that they would even welcome annexation, if thereby they might rid themselves of the republic."

"This feeling comes chiefly from the British residents?"

"Largely so. And yet very many of the British residents, although regretting the fall of the monarchy, are still very friendly in their personal relations with Mr. Dole. That gentleman is very popular among all classes. As an example, I will cite that of Mr. Wodehouse, the late British Minister, who has now returned to Great Britain. He sailed in my company from Honolulu to Vancouver. On the way he spoke often of Mr. Dole in the most friendly and courteous manner."

"Mr. Wodehouse, I think, is connected by marriage with the royal family?"

"Yes," said Mr. Castle; "his son married a half-sister of the Princess Kaiulani. Nevertheless, his references to Mr. Dole were, as I have said, of the most friendly nature."

The Pending Land Bill. "What is the chief matter of interest before the Hawaiian Legislature?"

"The Legislature has drawn a land bill and has at last perfected it. This bill is to provide some method of opening up the Government lands to small settlers. The status of these lands is, briefly, this: One of the chief acts of Kamehameha III was to inaugurate the systems which has since been in operation in the islands. Until his time, all the lands were held by the chiefs under a sort of feudal tenor. Kamehameha III confiscated all the lands and then re-arranged them in three groups. The first of these were the crown lands, the income from which accrued to the crown for the support of the sovereign. The second group were the lands deeded in fee simple back to the chiefs and to the small land holders throughout the kingdom. This assured the farmers and others of perfect titles. The third group, and this was by far the largest, including nearly one-half the lands of the islands, were the Government lands."

"At the fall of the monarchy and the establishment of the Provisional Government, the crown lands and the Government lands, except, of course, those held by private parties under leaseholds, reverted to the new Government. The two classes of lands then became merged. The question before the Government has been how to open up these lands to actual settlers. We desire to encourage American immigration. It is the intent to offer inducements to young, energetic men of American birth to come to the islands and settle and engage in the coffee raising industry. The lands will not be sold to speculators but to bona fide settlers. The price of the lands averages, perhaps, from \$1 to \$5 per acre. The land is exceedingly rich, and both soil and climate are well adapted to coffee culture. The settlers are not given a fee simple until after three years. This is to insure the sale of lands to actual settlers. "Cholera has appeared at Honolulu?"

"Yes, unfortunately it did not appear until after I had left. I learn, however, that it is confined wholly to the native Hawaiians. The whites have not been affected. Perhaps the greatest local problem with which we people at Honolulu have to deal is that of a good system of drainage. The city sits upon a level plain and the rise and fall of the tides is very slight. The coral reef outside the harbor acts as a breakwater, and also as a retainer of the waters of the harbor. We have several systems of sewerage under consideration, and shall adopt one of them before long. It is probable that some form of pumping will be adopted."

"You have a good educational system in the islands?"

"Excellent, we have a fine system of graded free schools and the very best of teachers. Oahu College has now a magnificent endowment, thanks to the munificence of Mr. Bishop, and as soon as there is a sufficient demand for a university educa-

tion among the people to warrant it, the grade of the college will be raised. Its rank is now about equal to the best academies and higher schools in this country. The new high school, for the use of which the beautiful Bishop mansion has been purchased recently, is just about ready to open. It may be that the outbreak of cholera has delayed the opening. Its grade will be about that of the best high schools in this country."

About the Revolution. "Now, Mr. Castle, will you say something about the revolution, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Cleveland, the action of the troops in landing and that interesting episode in general?"

"I think that Mr. Cleveland was in many respects misled in that matter. I do not think that he intentionally misstated anything. But he misapprehended the situation. At the same time, I feared that when the troops were landed, just at the critical time, before we had obtained possession of all the branches of the Government, the act would be open to misconception. I was afraid that the act of landing the men was a little premature. It was feared by me and others that it might be said that this was done for the purpose of intimidating the queen and her Government; and what we feared came to pass. But the disposition of the troops in the city was not as Mr. Cleveland was led to believe. They were not massed at one point. One squad was marched from the wharf directly to the American Consulate to guard the papers and records there. Another squad was sent to the house of the American Minister for the purpose of protection. The third detachment was marched up through the city, first to the house of Mr. Atherton, and afterwards removed to the grounds of Mr. Hopper, which were near the palace. But this was after dark, and they were not at any time paraded in view of the palace windows. The troops remained at Mr. Hopper's only until they could be furnished with some shelter for the night. I saw the troops there, and conversed with some of the officers. They told me they were only waiting there until some place could be found where they could pass the night. They were not under arms. Their muskets were not loaded and stacked. In a short time Arion Hall was procured, and the troops were removed there and bivouacked for the night. Arion Hall did not command the Government buildings, neither was it within sight of the palace. The troops were stationed here because it was a point near to the largest amount of property owned by American citizens, which it was their duty to guard."

"How is Minister Willis regarded in Honolulu?"

"His relations are very friendly with all the members of the Government, and it is the feeling of all that it is his desire to avoid friction and to maintain a genial, friendly relation with the people of the city. Of course we understand that he is there to carry out the policy of the Administration at Washington. But there is not the least unfriendliness in his attitude. His social relations with the people are warm and friendly."

"There was some excitement in the early part of his stay in Honolulu?"

A Chapter Hitherto Unpublished. "There was a vast amount of suppressed excitement when it became known that Minister Willis had demanded the surrender of the Dole Government to the queen. The news went through the city like magic. And with it went a feeling of determination to resist with force of arms any attempt of the American forces to enforce the demand. We felt that it was not impossible that such an attempt would be made, and every man took his rifle in hand. We have excellent galling guns, and from our position on shore we could have made a strong resistance to the landing of the American forces. They would not have been allowed to land. Still we felt very confident that they would attempt it. We could see the mustering of the men in arms on the deck of the ship."

"From elevated places in the city every movement on board the ship was distinctly visible. Men were posted in these places, which were connected by telephone with the Government buildings, and every movement on board was instantly reported. We knew that the men were mustered in line fully armed and equipped, with knapsacks and ammunition belts filled with cartridges. Everything was in readiness, apparently, for landing the troops, and they appeared to be only awaiting the word."

"Would the Hawaiians have fired on the boats if they had attempted a landing?"

"They certainly would. There is a good deal of Yankee blood in Hawaii. Our men would certainly have fired on the boats with the galling guns. You cannot imagine the tension of affairs in the city. Everyone fully expected a conflict with the American troops. We did not know what Mr. Willis' instructions were. We knew that he had made a demand in behalf of President Cleveland, that the Dole Government should step down and out, and that that demand had been refused. We knew that Mr. Willis had sent to Washington for further instructions. What these instructions were, of course, we did not know. Just at the critical moment, however, when everyone in the city fully expected a conflict with the American troops, an intimation came to us, in a quiet way—I will not say how—that the troops had no idea of landing, and that no force would be used. The intimation was very slight, but it was sufficient to show us that the mustering of the troops on the deck of the ship was merely for effect. It was a big show of bluff. The result showed that this was the correct view. When it became apparent that we were not to be overawed and intimidated, but that we meant to resist, the troops were returned to their quarters, and the city returned to its usual quiet."

"How was the intelligence of Liliuokalani's desire to behead the leaders of the new Government received in the city?"

"It was received with quiet horror. We felt confident that public sentiment in the United States would not countenance a restoration of the monarchy under such conditions. The result has shown that we are right in this feeling."

A Bishop's Bitterness. "A word about the Anglican Bishop

Willis. It is reported that he bitterly denounced the order to close the churches at the outbreak of the cholera."

"Yes. Bishop Willis has always been exceedingly bitter against the Provisional Government and against the present Government, and he has been outspoken in his bitterness. But even with his feeling I do not really see how he could have spoken so bitterly about the closing of the churches as an ordinary measure of power. It was done as a measure of safety, especially in the interest of the native Hawaiians, to whom the scourge is confined. The order was made in the interests of the public safety, and even the Bishop should have acquiesced in it. The Bishop has been so outspoken and so unreasonable in his opposition to the Government that a schism has occurred in the Cathedral parish of the English church, and a faction, led by Mr. Macintosh, has formed a new congregation. Of course this must be under the official control of the Bishop, as he is a missionary bishop of the English church, whose See covers the whole group of islands. But the new congregation does not come under his immediate ministry. It is difficult to understand Bishop Willis' intense bitterness, but it is doubtless explained by his traditional attachment to monarchical institutions. His opposition does not materially affect the people or the Government."

A Patriotic Plenipotentiary.

Mr. Castle is a Hawaiian by birth, and is enthusiastic in his love for his native islands. His education was gained partly in Honolulu and partly in this country. He was admitted to the New York bar, and practiced law for a time in the metropolis. In 1875 he returned to the islands and was appointed Attorney-General by King Kalakaua. He participated in the revolution of 1887 and again in 1893. He was one of the five commissioners who came to Washington to negotiate the treaty of annexation which was presented to the Senate during the last weeks of President Harrison's administration. It will be interesting to know that Mr. Castle, himself the son of a missionary, is imbued with much of the missionary spirit. He has for many years occupied the position of superintendent of the Sunday school connected with the oldest native church on the islands, and has long been an earnest laborer among the native Hawaiians. He speaks their language fluently, and is exceedingly popular among them. On this account his appointment to the Washington mission is very satisfactory to the native Hawaiians.

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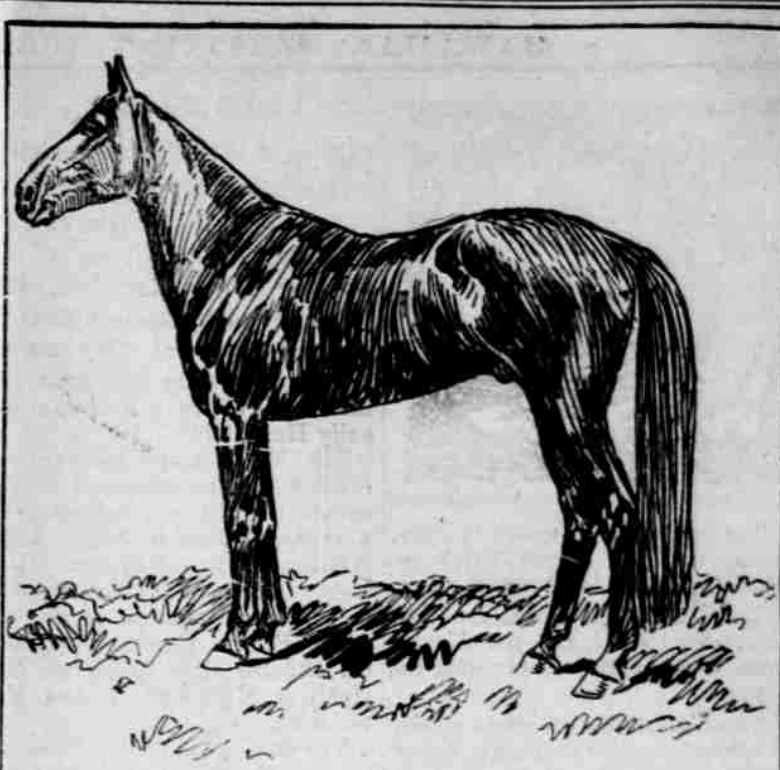
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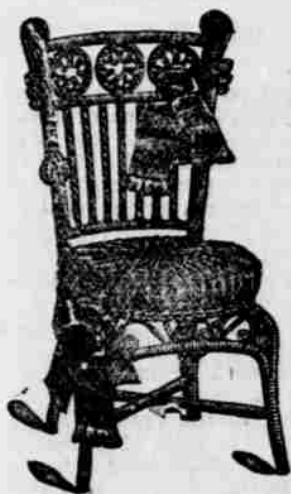
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